

ability to prosper. President Bush made a wise decision when he proposed increased funding for global HIV/AIDS programs at USAID. But it is disconcerting that his budget also recommends a \$25 million decrease in support for maternal and child health programs. Difficult choices must be made, understandably, but funds should not be shifted from one essential health program to another.

At this precarious time in our world, we cannot lose sight of the health of women, the primary caregivers who instill values and provide hope for their children, the future of every society. Every year, over 500,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth. The vast majority of these lives could be saved by low-tech, low-cost interventions. The health of a child and her mother are closely intertwined, and good maternal health is essential for the survival of both mother and child. In developing countries, a mother's death in childbirth due to malnutrition, or inadequate prenatal and delivery care, means almost certain death for her newborn child.

We must also invest substantially more in programs that improve the health of young children. Every year, nearly 11 million die needlessly before their fifth birthday—almost all from diseases easily prevented or readily treated. For example, pennies worth of antibiotics could save three million children who will die this year of pneumonia.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution calls for increased funding for basic child survival and maternal health programs of at least \$500 million dollars. This figure is just a small investment when the dividends would be political stability, international security, and a renewed hope for the future of mothers and children around the world. Representative MORELLA and I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important resolution.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF
RABBI MORDECAI WAXMAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the work of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, one of America's great citizens, who is retiring from his position as senior rabbi at Temple Israel in Great Neck, New York. On Sunday, May 19, Temple Israel will hold a dinner to celebrate and honor Rabbi Waxman for his 55 years of devoted service not just to the Jewish community on Long Island, but to the Jewish community throughout America and around the world.

Well-known throughout New York, Rabbi Waxman will be remembered in human history as one of the key figures in the effort to heal the painful breach between the Jewish people and the Roman Catholic Church. Working with two Popes, Rabbi Waxman played a key role in the Second Vatican Council's publication of the *Nostra Aetate* document, which transformed modern relations between Jews and Catholics.

Rabbi Waxman has not only been a leader between religions, but also a key figure in the U.S. Jewish community over several decades. Beginning with his ordination at the Jewish

Theological Seminary in 1941, Rabbi Waxman has continuously sought opportunities for leadership, first, as the founding rabbi at Congregation Shaare Tikva in Chicago, Illinois and then, only a year later, serving as a U.S. Army chaplain from 1943 to 1946.

Following his service to our nation, Rabbi Waxman went on to lead Temple Israel, along the way becoming editor of the *Journal of Conservative Judaism*, the president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the president of the World Council of Synagogues, the chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultation, the chairman of the National Council of Synagogues and even the first rabbi to become a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great due to his vital role in Jewish-Catholic rapprochement.

Mr. Speaker, America is not a great nation because a small corps of heroes do great deeds. America is a great nation because our charter of freedom has enabled thousands of ordinary men and women to do extraordinary things.

Rabbi Mordecai Waxman is just such an ordinary doer of extraordinary things. As a citizen, as a U.S. Army chaplain, as a leader of the Jewish community in America and internationally, and as a husband to the late Dr. Ruth Waxman, the father of Hillel, Jonathan and David Waxman, and the grandfather of five wonderful grandchildren, Ariya, Amir-Kia, Lailee, Jessye and Avir, Rabbi Waxman has represented what we all know is best about our nation and our society.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the whole House to rise and join me in thanking Rabbi Mordecai Waxman for his contributions to our country and its citizens, and in wishing him a retirement of peace, contentment and good health.

ON PASSAGE OF THE CONFERENCE
REPORT TO H.R. 2646, THE FARM
SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, On May 2, 2002, the House approved the conference report to H.R. 2646, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, also known as the farm bill. I could not support this measure, for it represents a complete reversal of the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, legislation that I have long supported.

The 1996 Freedom to Farm Act was a six-year attempt to wean farmers off government support, taking agriculture out of the hands of government control by eliminating subsidies and letting the market dictate prices and production levels. I acknowledge that the Freedom to Farm Act was not perfect, but instead of improving upon this approach and building on its early success, the conference report completely abandons the free market principles of Freedom to Farm and returns to government subsidies and hands-on government management of agriculture.

The Chicago Tribune ran an editorial on May 6, 2002, entitled "Congress at the trough," which reflects the sentiments many of us share with respect to the conference report

to H.R. 2646. I bring the editorial to my colleagues' attention and ask that it be included in the record of debate on the conference report.

CONGRATULATING SBC

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that these are challenging times for our nation's economy. All of us are looking for solutions. And many of those solutions will come from America's small businesses, whose ability to grow and prosper is crucial for today's commerce.

Today, I would like to recognize a company, which does business in my district and many other congressional districts, for its role in helping small businesses—and, in particular, diverse businesses.

That company is SBC Communications, which earlier this month [May 7] received a Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership. This presidential award, named for the late Commerce Secretary, is presented to companies that have demonstrated a deep commitment to initiatives that empower employees and communities.

SBC was honored specifically for its excellence in promoting economic development through supplier diversity. Last year, the company spent 23.5 percent of its \$12 billion procurement budget with businesses owned by women, minorities or disabled veterans. At the award ceremony, Commerce Secretary Don Evans praised SBC for its program and noted, correctly I think, that SBC "has set the standard for supplier diversity."

Beyond the immediate economic benefit for small and diverse companies, SBC's diversity program also ensures that these firms learn how to compete in a high-tech world. SBC doesn't just place orders with diverse companies—it actually recruits and trains them, offers special loan programs and makes available educational opportunities.

SBC wins from this commitment by broadening its supplier base and making sure that it is reaching out to all segments of society. Smaller, independent companies, especially those firms owned by women and minorities, win by gaining improved access to the world of big business. This is good for SBC, good for economic vitality and diversity, and good for America.

I congratulate SBC on this much-deserved award.

THE STOLEN ASSET RECOVERY
ACT OF 2002

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce The Stolen Asset Recovery Act of 2002. This bill would facilitate the identification of assets that have been stolen by dictators and other corrupt officials in developing countries and laundered in American financial institutions.